

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /071 W  
----- 069228

R 100835Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1640  
INFO AMCONGEN CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, BG, IN  
SUBJ: PROBLEMS WITH INDIA CITED AS ZIA LEAVES FOR COLOMBO

REF: DACCA 4038

1. UPON HIS DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO AUGUST 9, GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN LINKED THE NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE TO THE BDG'S PROBLEMS WITH INDIA, SPECIFICALLY BORDER INCIDENTS AND FARAKKA BARRAGE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OF HIS REMARKS AT DACCA AIRPORT, ZIA SAID THAT THE UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF GANGES WATER "HAS HIT OUR ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY" AND THAT "IT WILL BE AN ACT OF UNFRIENDLINESS" IF ANYONE TRIED TO HINDER BANGLADESH'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ZIA REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID, ONCE AGAIN, THAT MISCREANTS WERE BEING TRAINED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF CAMPS IN MEGHALAYA, AGARTALA AND ON THE WESTERN BORDER TO CARRY OUT SABOTAGE IN BANGLADESH; THE BDG WAS TAKING MEASURES TO MEET THIS THREAT OF WHICH "THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH AND THE WORLD" WERE AWARE. ZIA SAID THAT THE BDG WASS"PREPARED TO TALK AND NEGOTIATE" TO SETTLE

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THESE PROBLEMS AND THAT THE EARLIER THEY ARE RESOLVED THE

BETTER.

2. ASSERTING THAT IT WAS THE "BIRTH RIGHT" OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH "TO EXERCISE THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY IN FULL," ZIA COMPLAINED THAT THE RESOURCES OF BANGLADESH HAD FLOWED FROM THE COUNTRY SINCE 1947 AND "UNFORTUNATELY" CONTINUED TO DO SO AFTER 1971. THE WHOLE COUNTRY, HE SAID IS NOW UNITED AND THE PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO "PAY ANY COST" TO UPHOLD THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. ZIA SAID THAT BANGLADESH WANTED TO BUILD UP "EQUAL RELATIONS" ZIA REPORTEDLY SAID, TRIED TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTH ASIA, IT WOULD SPILL OVER IN THE REGION. "THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED TOO MUCH. WE ARE BUSY WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EVERYBODY SHOULD HELP UP IN OUR DEVELOPMENT."

3. COMMENT. BY DWELLING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON BANGLADESH BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH INDIA, GENERAL ZIA SEEMED TO SIGNAL AGAIN THAT THE BDG DELEGATION AT COLOMBO INTENDS TO RAISE THESE ISSUES. BY SPECIFICALLY LINKING THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF BANGLADESH AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, GENERAL ZIA SEEMS TO BE JUSTIFYING IN ADVANCE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF USING THE COLOMBO FORUM TO AIR BILATERAL ISSUES.

BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, SOVEREIGNTY, SPEECHES, NONALIGNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DACCA04102  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760307-0434  
**From:** DACCA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760870/aaaaciut.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 DACCA 4038  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROBLEMS WITH INDIA CITED AS ZIA LEAVES FOR COLOMBO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORO, PBOR, IN, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006